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Sunday, October 6, 2024
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Entertainment Industry Promotion

Walker creates magic

Music, tech, creativity came together to light up B'luru's skies

PIC COURTESY: SUNBURN ARENA

Bengaluru experienced an unforgettable night as Sunburn elevated Alan Walker's Walker World tour to new heights, featuring an incredible drone show that lit up the night sky like never before. This was more than just a concert; it was a high-energy spectacle that redefined live events.

A fleet of 500 advanced drones soared through the air, perfectly synchronized to the electrifying beats of Alan Walker's chart-topping hits. As the music resonated with the crowd, these technological wonders transformed the Bengaluru skyline into a breathtaking display of intricate designs and stunning visual patterns. Spectators were left in awe as the cityscape turned into a dazzling masterpiece.

Alan Walker's Walker World tour, his largest in India, included fan favorites like 'Faded', along with hits such as 'Spectre' and 'Alone'. Fans enjoyed a powerful mix of dance-pop anthems featuring unforgettable tracks and exciting new collaborations with artists like Daya and Steve Aoki. Walker remarked, "Returning to India for my biggest tour ever has been incredible. The energy from the crowds was unmatched, and together, we created magical, unforgettable moments! I can't wait to continue the tour in India."

Karan Singh, CEO of Sunburn, shared his excitement, stating, "We are thrilled to bring Alan Walker back to India for this monumental tour. The spectacular drone show added to his performance exceeded all expectations and has set a new standard for live experiences in the country."

This event will be remembered as a historic night, where music, technology, and creativity collided in an unprecedented way. Those fortunate enough to attend witnessed something truly spectacular, and the memories of that magical evening will linger for years to come.

With blessings

Swami Balkanand Giri Ji Maharaj, a renowned spiritual guide, visited the Kanteerava Studios where the shooting of Kannada movie 45 was held recently. The Swami blessed the cast and crew of the movie. Dr Shivarajkumar, Real Star Upendra, Raj B Shetty, director Arjun Janya, producer Ramesh Reddy, and stunt master Ravi Varma were present on the occasion.

Producer Ramesh Reddy said Swami Balkanand Giri Ji Maharaj has been providing food for thousands of people through Haridham Sai Trust. "I am blessed to have Swami Balkanand Giri Ji Maharaj on the sets of the movie. I want to thank him for visiting the shooting location and blessing us all," said Reddy.

Music director Arjun Janya debuts as an independent director in Sandalwood with 45 in which Dr Shivarajkumar, Upendra, Raj B Shetty, and Kausthubha Mani are playing important roles. The movie is being bankrolled under the Suraj Productions banner by Uma Ramesh Reddy.

The movie will hit screens in Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Malayalam, and Hindi languages on November 15.

Producer Reddy spared no expense to make the film. A spectacular scene of the movie was shot at Sri Champakadhama Swamy Temple near Bannerghatta in January 2024. More than 1,000 people participated in the shooting. Macobot and rope cameras were used and more than 400 colour bombs were used. It was said that 45 is the first Kannada movie to use such a number of colour bombs. —BMB

Anne Hathaway confirms return for 'Princess Diaries 3'

Hollywood star Anne Hathaway is set to return to the coming-of-age comedy franchise film 'Princess Diaries' with its third instalment.

The development on 'Princess Diaries 3' is moving at a brisk pace with Adele Lim signing on to direct, reports 'Variety'.

"As a diehard fan of the original 'Princess Diaries', I'm beyond excited to be a part of bringing the third iteration of this beloved franchise to life", Lim said in a statement. "We look forward to celebrating its core tenants of female power, joy and mentorship with audiences worldwide".

As per 'Variety', the film is produced by Debra Martin Chase, who originated the film franchise starring Anne Hathaway as Mia Thermopolis, the down-to-earth teen-turned-queen of the fictional kingdom of Genovia, and Julie Andrews as her regal grandmother.

Anne Hathaway will also produce under her Somewhere Pictures banner. Naia Cucukov (Lim's producing partner at 100 Tigers, both pictured above) will executive produce the film alongside Melissa Stack.

'Princess Diaries 3' has been in development since 2022 and, last year, Hathaway shared an update about the long-awaited movie's progress in an interview with V Magazine. "We're in a good place", Hathaway teased. "There's nothing to announce yet. But we're in a good place". —IANS

Tale of natural farming not told well

Gopilola

2.5 RATING ★★½☆☆

- **DIRECTOR** R Ravindra
- **ACTORS** Manjunath Arasu, Nimisha K Chandra, S Narayan, Saptagiri, Joe Simon, Padma Vasanthi
- **Duration** 138 minutes
- **Certification** U/A

Director R Ravindra has selected a good script that highlights the importance of natural farming, the ill-effects of chemical fertilisers and the problems of farmers in rural areas. The director has included all facets such as love, emotions and action in the script to entertain the audiences. The movie gives the audience a chance to see veteran actors such as S Narayan, Padma Vasanthi, Dingri Nagaraj and Rekha Das in action on the silver screen.

The film is about Dharme Gowda (S Narayan), a farmer who adapts natural farming and wants others to follow him to avoid use of chemical fertilisers that are harmful to humans and soil. His son, Gopi (Manjunath Arasu), who wants to lead life happily in the company of women, and he are not able to see eye to eye. Gopi falls in love with Leela (Nimisha K Chandra). Leela insists Gopi marry her but he doesn't want to. Meanwhile, a promoter of chemical fertilisers engages goons to teach a lesson to Dharme Gowda. What happens to Leela and Gopi is what Gopilola is all about.

The director may have tried, but the lead pair needs some more training to hone their acting skills. They are good at mouthing dialogues but fail miserably in romantic scenes. They look stoic in scenes where they are required to run around trees and express emotions. Veteran director-cum-actor S Narayan has failed to impress. He is always seen yelling at someone with not much thought to acting. The action scene where he fights off goons is far from convincing. The romantic scene with Rekha Das and Dingri Nagaraj is not up to the mark and ends up looking odd. It is not clear why the director took Telugu actor Saptagiri on board. It is a pity to see veteran director Joe Simon in such a trivial role as an assistant to Saptagiri. Kempegowda Mandya has nothing to do in this movie except appearing and disappearing from the screen.

If natural farming is your interest area, you can catch this film.

—Y Maheswara Reddy

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RIGHT OF WAY

App synced with GPS will alert Traffic Control Room to monitor ambulances' real-time location, ensure clear path

PAGE 2

VENDOR COUNT

After evictions from some areas, citywide assessment of street traders begins to identify those eligible for support programmes

PAGE 4

As e-khata system kicks off, citizens have multiple worries. While some wonder why they have to upload documents or pay additional fee all over again, others point to bribery creeping in

E-KHATA: CRAFTING A UTOPIAN PLOT?

And what about server crashes, system glitches, data entry errors?

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As the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) claims that the proposed e-khata aims to simplify the process, a section of citizens have alleged that it lacks transparency as they are forced to apply for too many documents.

A citizen told BM, 'BBMP claims that all existing khatas in their registers have been digitised. Since these paper khatas, particularly A khatas, were previously issued based on verified documents like sale deeds and Encumbrance Certificates, it stands to reason that the logical and transparent course of action would be to issue final e-khatas to property owners without requiring them to upload documents again. The issue of objections should not even arise, as this was already addressed before the initial issuance of paper A-khatas."

They also questioned the need to charge additional fees. "Paper A-khatas were previously issued for a fee of Rs 100; therefore, it raises ethical concerns to charge Rs 125 again for downloading the e-khata. And, what about property owners

CONTINUED ON PAGE 4 »

"Paper A-khatas were previously issued for a fee of Rs 100; therefore, it raises ethical concerns to charge Rs 125 again for downloading the e-khata. And, what about property owners who already possess e-khatas?

—Citizen

Back to black

Average concentration of harmful black carbon has spiked in parts of city over last decade

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Black carbon emission in Bengaluru has gone up considerably over the last decade, researchers have highlighted.

Researchers from the Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology, New Delhi, Visvesvaraya Technological University, Belagavi, Ghousia College of Engineering, Ramanagara, and Dayananda Sagar College of Engineering, Bengaluru, studied concentration of black carbon at five different locations in Bengaluru.

They noted that the average concentrations of this harmful pollutant have increased by around 55% in urban regions within five years from the time of the study, indicating the adverse impact of human activities. Black carbon values were measured at the City railway station, Peenya Industrial Area, Corporation Circle, Malleswaram, and Jayanagar from January 2019 to December 2019.

While the overall average concentration of black carbon was found to be 5.91 µg/m3, a higher concentration of 7.71 µg/m3 was recorded over the city railway station, and the lowest (3.69 µg/m3) was in Jayanagar.

Hotspots

Black carbon emission was also found to be 41% higher in heavy traffic and

CONTINUED ON PAGE 11 »

3 THINGS TO DO

01 Ireland summons

Education in Ireland, the national brand representing Ireland's top Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs) invites aspiring Indian students to explore their higher education options at the upcoming Education Fair in Bengaluru. With 8,000 Indian students choosing Ireland as their study destination in 2023, this year's fair is expected to attract even more interest in Irish institutions. As part of the #StudyEmeraldIsle campaign, this event offers students and parents a unique opportunity to engage with representatives from 18 leading Irish institutions. Participants will gain comprehensive information on courses and post-study work opportunities. **Where: Taj Vivanta, MG road; When: October 6, 12- 4 pm**

02 Gold, silver & more

Hi Life Jewels presents an exhibition cum sale that brings together over 100 premium jewellery brands under one roof. This will cater to the Indian woman's love for opulent jewellery that defines her rich signature style. Come and explore here for lavish bridal jewellery and occasion jewellery. Bridal, gold, footwear, bed linen, nail art, lehengas, diamonds, bags and clutches, furnishing, skin care, custom-made, silver, waist belts, and many more to explore. **Where: Taj West End; When: October 6, 10 am to 8 pm**

03 Dandiya night

Get ready for an unforgettable night of music, dance, and vibrant energy at Dandiya Mahotsav. Celebrate the festive spirit with traditional dandiya beats, live performances, and colourful festivities. Bring your friends and family, grab your dandiya sticks, and dance the night away. **Where: Lulu Mall, When: October 6, 6 pm**

New app to make way for ambulance in B'luru traffic

Synced with GPS, E-Path will alert Traffic Control Room to monitor vehicle's real-time location and ensure clear path

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Ambulances, despite using sirens, often find it difficult to cut through long queues of vehicles during peak hours. With this app, BTP aims to reduce such delays

Bengaluru's infamous traffic snarls, which often cause delays in emergency services, are soon expected to see a positive shift with the introduction of a new app aimed at aiding ambulance movement. The city's Traffic Police is set to launch 'E-Path,' an innovative app designed to guide ambulances through traffic-free routes and ensure signal clearance during emergencies. The app is expected to go live by the end of this month.

Addressing the media, Joint Commissioner of Police (Traffic), MN Anucheth, emphasised the significance of this initiative, stating that the app would play an important role in saving lives by reducing response times for ambulances stuck in traffic. "The trials for the E-Path app have been conducted successfully, and we are confident that by the end of the month, the app will be fully operational," said Anucheth.

How E-Path works

Once launched, E-Path will allow ambulances to update their status on the app during emergencies. The app, synced with GPS, will alert the Traffic Control Room, where officers will monitor the vehicle's real-time location. The app's functionality goes beyond simple route optimisation. As soon as an ambulance updates its status, notifications will be sent to traffic personnel to clear the necessary roads ahead. Based on the GPS coordinates, traffic police will take steps to ensure a clear route for the ambulance. Traffic signals along the route will also be updated to give priority to the ambulance, ensuring minimal disruptions. This system will effectively minimise delays caused by traffic congestion and ensure a smooth passage for emergency vehicles.

Potential impact on ambulance services

In a city where gridlock can last hours, and every second counts for patients in critical conditions, this app comes as a promising solution. The app is expected to alleviate the frustration faced by ambulance drivers and paramedics who struggle to navigate through dense traffic during emergencies. Moreover, it will also reduce stress on the families of patients, knowing that help will arrive swiftly without being hindered by traffic chaos.

"Cases like head trauma, heart attacks, and accidents are given top priority. The movement of these priority ambulances is tracked by the traffic control room, ensuring they receive clear passage," said Anucheth, while addressing the media. According to sources, the police have already tested the app in coordination with ambulance drivers, and it has been decided to implement it by the end of this month.

The Joint Commissioner also held a meeting with ambulance fleet operators on Friday, urging them to utilise the E-Path app for priority signalling and signal clearance for emergency ambulances.

Bengaluru has consistently ranked as one of the most congested cities, and the traffic bottlenecks have had a direct impact on emergency response times. Ambulances, despite using sirens, often find it difficult to cut through long queues of vehicles during peak hours. With this app, the Bengaluru Traffic Police aims to significantly reduce the delay caused by such situations.

Wait till next year to take metro to Electronic City

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Workers busy at Namma metro Yellow line work at city's biggest multi-level interchange metro station at Jayadeva Metro station (File photo)

Bengaluru residents hoping for the Metro to Electronic City will have to wait a bit longer, as operations on the much-anticipated Reach-5 Yellow Line from RV Road to Bommasandra are now expected to commence only in early 2025. While civil and system works have been substantially completed, several key steps remain before the line can be opened for public use.

A Metro official said, "Testing with the prototype train is currently underway, and technical sanction for the traction system has been secured from the Railway Board. The signalling system and rolling stock processes are in their final stages, moving closer to completion. Three train sets are expected by November-December 2024, with the goal of launching the section with these trains in January 2025. The section is scheduled for inspection by the Commissioner of Metro Rail Safety (CMRS) in December 2024. By August 2025, all 15 train sets required for full operation on the Reach-5 line are expected to be in place, ensuring a more frequent and efficient service."

It may be recalled that the China Railway Rolling Stock Corporation had won the tender to supply pilotless trains. The contract involves supplying 216 bogies. Out of the 216 bogies, 126 bogies (equivalent to six bogies of 21 trains) will be deployed for the green and blue lines, while the remaining 90 bogies (equivalent to 15 trains of six bogies) will be deployed for the yellow line. However, the delay in the supply of rolling stock delayed the Metro services. A Metro official said, "The yellow line includes Driverless Train Operation (DTO) and Communications-based Train Control (CBTC). Before the operations, there is a need to integrate CBTC and rolling stock. Moreover, testing will require an extended period. After the testing phase, we will seek approval."

It's important to note that Communications-based Train Control (CBTC) is a railway signaling system that uses communication between the train and track equipment to manage traffic and control infrastructure. Unlike traditional systems, CBTC offers more accurate information about a train's position, making railway traffic management safer and more efficient. This technology allows metros and other railway systems to reduce the time intervals between trains while maintaining or improving safety standards.

BMRCL officials said that the DTO will bring more flexibility in train operations, and reduce human interventions and errors. It will also help in improving the availability of coaches for service. The Driverless Trains will eliminate the manual process of checking done before induction, subsequently reducing the burden on train operators. The parking on the stabling line in depots will also be done automatically.

There has been an undue delay in opening of the yellow line for which the construction began way back in June 2017. The physical work on the RV Road-Bommasandra route is nearly complete. Initially, the plan was to start operations by December 2023.

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FCP INTERFACE/6878/OCT2024/ENG

Survey of street vendors begins in BBMP zones

Following recent evictions from Church Street, citywide assessment of street traders has started to identify those eligible for support programs

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After evicting street vendors from Church Street, the Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike (BBMP) announced that it has initiated a survey of street vendors across all zones within its jurisdiction. BBMP Special Commissioner (Health and Animal Husbandry) Suralkar Vikas Kishor said, "In accordance with the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, and the Karnataka Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood, Regulation of Street Vending, and Licensing) Scheme, 2020, a comprehensive survey of urban street vendors is being conducted across the BBMP. Accordingly, a total of eight zones are covered under this survey, with over 600 enumerators deployed for the task. The survey is being carried out using mobile applications, and approximately 1,800 street vendors have been identified across zones so far."

He said that based on the findings of the survey, eligible street vendors will be issued identity cards and certificates. Furthermore, town vending committees will be formed at the zonal level to ensure the implementation of the Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood and Regulation of Street Vending) Act, 2014, and the Karnataka Street Vendors (Protection of Livelihood, Regulation of Street Vending, and Licensing) Scheme, 2020.

Documents required for survey

Street vendors are requested to cooperate with the enumerators appointed by the BBMP during the survey and provide the following documents; an Aadhaar Card, Voter ID, Bank Passbook, Family Ration Card, information on family members and a self-declaration certificate.

Awareness through street plays

He said that to raise awareness among street vendors about the ongoing survey, street plays have been organised by BBMP. These plays inform vendors about the various benefits available to them.

Pamphlet distribution:

Pamphlets detailing the process of participation in the survey and the benefits derived from it are being distributed among street vendors. Additionally, various other activities are being undertaken to promote the survey, ensuring it facilitates the empowerment of street vendors.

Identification of vending zones

He said, "Efforts to identify vending zones that will benefit street vendors are actively underway in all eight zones under the BBMP. The central and state governments have launched several schemes aimed at empowering street vendors. In this regard, BBMP is effectively surveying to ensure these schemes reach the vendors. In addition to the PM SVANidhi scheme, various benefits such as assistance for purchasing e-commerce vehicles, financial support for the construction of Amrutha Mahotsava houses, reimbursement of medical expenses for those suffering from severe illnesses, skill development training programs, and reimbursement of school fees for street vendors' children can be availed through BBMP".

PM SVANidhi scheme

The Prime Minister's Street Vendor's Atmanirbhar Nidhi (PM SVANidhi) scheme, under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India, and the Deen Dayal Antyodaya Yojana – National Urban Livelihoods Mission (DAY-NULM), provides small loans to help street vendors become self-reliant.

Street vendors are requested to provide documents such as Aadhar Card, Voter ID, Bank Passbook, Family Ration Card and self-declaration certificate

BBMP claims all is well with e-khata

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

who already possess e-khatas? The press release mentions requirements such as the BESCOM 10-digit number, which was not requested when these e-khatas were originally issued."

Another citizen said the whole premise seems impractical. "It sounds utopian to suggest that a citizen need not meet anyone in BBMP to obtain their final e-khata. Of the 21 lakh properties, it is reasonable to assume that at least 30% of owners lack the know-how or facilities to complete this process online, which could introduce the potential for human interference and bribery. There are also significant concerns regarding server crashes, system glitches, and data entry errors made by BBMP's own staff," they said.

As per this citizen, it took them took four to five drafts and 'greasing' to correct such errors. "I suspect that when property tax payments begin next year in April 2025, there will likely be a new, mandatory column in the online SAS application requiring the e-khata serial number. This could lead to a nightmare for thousands of property owners in Bengaluru."

Where do we stand now?

In response to increasing demands for a more streamlined process to procure e-khatas, BBMP Chief Commissioner Tushar Giri Nath has provided updates on the ongoing digitisation efforts. According to the Commissioner, BBMP has initiated a test run of the new system, which aims to make the e-khata process more transparent and accessible.

"We have completed the first phase of digitisation, where the khatas have been scanned, and we are currently in the verification process," he said. He added that potential discrepancies could arise while converting manual khata records to digital format, and the quality control process is aimed at addressing these inconsistencies. The public can now verify the digitised versions of their khatas, and BBMP will soon begin accepting additional documents from property owners to complete the final verification process.

Meanwhile, a senior BBMP official outlined the steps involved in obtaining the final e-khata. Both A Khata and B Khata have been digitised, and draft versions of over 21 lakh e-khatas are now available online for property owners to download anytime from the BBMP eAasthi portal. To obtain the final e-khata, property owners must provide essential documents, including their sale deed or registered deed number, Encumbrance Certificate (EC) from 2004 onwards, property tax application number, Aadhaar eKYC, BESCOM number, GPS coordinates, and a photo of the property. All these details are electronically fetched through various government systems, ensuring a smooth and automated process. "Once the required information is submitted, the software will automatically verify the documents and issue the final e-khata without the need for physical interaction with BBMP officials. However, in cases where information is incomplete or objections arise, the citizen may need to contact the jurisdictional ARO," an official said.

Tender Notice

Open Tender for Renovation Project at Hoskote Taluk Hospital. Civil, Electrical and Plumbing Works. Interested contractors may visit our website for tender details: www.doctorsforyou.org or For any queries email us at disastersecretariat.south@doctorsforyou.org

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Debris scattered

Jayanagar

Debris and garbage are scattered across the road on 40th Cross, 8th Block, Jayanagar, directly opposite the HDFC Bank.

Waste strewn

Cottonpet

Trash is scattered across N M Lane, Cottonpet Cross.

Footpath hazard

Residency Road

The footpath tiles have caved in, creating a serious hazard for pedestrians in Ward 111 on Residency Road outside the Cotton Complex west gate.

DASARA HABBA

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Construction disrupts locals' peace

Photo of construction site shared by residents

CV Raman Nagar residents report noise and dust pollution from construction defying regulations; developer denies violations

Garima Prasher
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TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

Residents of an apartment complex in CV Raman Nagar have raised concerns about blatant violations of night-time construction rules by a builder in the area. They are complaining about excessive noise and dust pollution caused by ongoing construction activities at Bagmane Tech Park, developed by Bagmane Developers Pvt Ltd. However, the claims have been dismissed by Bagmane Developers Pvt Ltd. "Our security guard takes rounds during night-time and updates us with videos and pictures. There is no construction activity happening at the site post 10 pm," said a representative of Bagmane Developers Pvt Ltd.

"We are again facing disturbances by the Bagmane construction. The building site, next to our apartment complex, is equipped with cranes. Workers move construction materials using pulleys and cables after 10 pm, impacting our sleep," said a resident.

Notably, residents have raised complaints about the site on multiple occasions in the past.

Following a series of complaints, the Karnataka State Pollution Control Board (KSPCB) issued three notices to Bagmane Developers Pvt Ltd last year for violating the Karnataka High Court's order on night-time construction activities (between 10 pm and 6 am).

The third and final notice was sent on June 21, following an inspection by the state pollution control board on June 13, which revealed multiple violations at the construction site. In its notice to the director of Bagmane Developers Pvt Ltd, KSPCB emphasised the seriousness of these violations and stated that further action would be taken if a satisfactory response, including an action taken report, is not received within seven days.

A site inspection was conducted by KSPCB in January 2023 as well, and the first notice for non-compliance was sent to tech park authorities on February 10. However, the inspection conducted in June revealed that none of the violations highlighted by the Board in its first notice were removed.

The notice from the board in June last year warned that if the builder disobeys, the consent granted to them would be revoked. KSPCB also stated it would take action under Section 31(A) of the Air Act by directing BESCOM (Bangalore Electricity Supply Company Limited) to disconnect power and BWSSB (Bangalore Water Supply and Sewerage Board) to cut the water supply. Additionally, a criminal case would be filed against the builder under the Air Act provisions.

The board directed Bagmane Developers Pvt Ltd to adhere to Karnataka High Court-mandated working hours, cover heavy vehicles with tarpaulin, install barricades around the site to minimise air and noise pollution. As per the Central Pollution Control Board's (CPCB) specifications, the acceptable noise level (dB) for residential areas is 55 dB during the day and 45 dB during the night.

> **"Workers move construction materials using pulleys and cables after 10 pm, impacting our sleep**
> –Resident

"We have been measuring noise levels during early morning hours and it reached 75 dB. The builder is not only disobeying the HC's order but is also flouting BBMP's by law, which mandates that no construction activities can be carried out during night hours," said another resident.

"Workers use a crane and cement truck to pump cement into the bucket during night hours. Because of floor work, we cannot see what is happening but we can hear loud sounds. The workers have also been dumping soil to level the ground but without sprinkling water. A lot of dust enters our houses," rued another resident.

Citizens fed up with illegal businesses

The Federation of Resident Welfare Associations in Bengaluru, I Change Indiranagar, has written to state government officials regarding the inefficiency of Bruhat Bengaluru Mahanagara Palike officials. Their negligence has led to the establishment of illegal commercial enterprises around residential areas, resulting in violations of residents' right to life.

Residents wrote to Dr Shalini Rajneesh, Chief Secretary, Government of Karnataka; Governor Thawarchand Gehlot; Karnataka Chief Minister Siddaramaiah; Deputy Chief Minister DK Shivakumar; and other officials, highlighting the negligence of BBMP health and engineering officials, which led to the establishment of commercial enterprises around residential areas. This has resulted in issues such as parking problems, noise pollution, air pollution, and concerns regarding safety and security.

The letter stated, "When a building is constructed or renovated, the BBMP Engineering Department fails to inspect for violations of building by-laws. As a result, many buildings are constructed with no parking, utilising every available inch of real estate for construction."

Residents highlighted that, according to the BBMP Commissioner circular dated June 23, 2015, health officials issue trade licenses based on electricity bills and rental agreements. However, these documents do not serve as valid proof of a building's legality or its permitted business zone.

They pointed out a RTI filed in May, where the health official for CV Raman Nagar claimed to have issued only 378 trade licenses in Ward 80. Residents reported that around 500 commercial establishments were illegally conducting business.

The residents said that despite raising objections to BBMP since 2018, a brewpub at No 48, 100 Feet Road has been granted a trade license, with the ground floor, designated for parking, converted into a microbrewery. **— Iffath Fathima**

State unveils excise duty on alcohol

Beer prices to be increased in K'taka once again, fourth increase in less than 2 years

The Karnataka state government, which recently increased prices on domestic liquors, is now preparing to raise excise duties on beer, causing concern among tipplers. In August, the government issued a draft notification inviting objections to the proposed excise duty hike on beer. Feedback was collected from various stakeholders, including beer manufacturers, liquor shop owners, and consumers. Following this review, the government has decided to move forward with the increase. As a result of this excise duty hike, beer prices are anticipated to rise significantly. This would mark the fourth price increase in just a year and a half, placing a financial strain on beer lovers.

Steady rise in prices

Karnataka ranks as the third-largest beer market in India. Beer sales surged by 45% this year compared to the last three years. However, the revenue generated from beer sales is significantly less than that from domestic liquors, prompting the government to periodically raise the Additional Excise Duty (AED) on beer to bolster its revenue.

Sources said that in July 2023, the AED was increased from 175% to 185%, resulting in a Rs 10 to Rs 15 hike for a 650 ml bottle of beer. Manufacturers subsequently raised their prices by at least Rs 10 per bottle to cover increasing production costs. Effective February 1, 2024, the AED will be further increased from 185% to 195%, leading to an additional 10% rise in prices.

Market reactions

In anticipation of the price hike, beer manufacturers have started to limit the supply of premium brands to avoid re-labelling once prices increase, causing shortages in the market. Bars, restaurants, and wholesalers are stockpiling beer, leading to increased demand at the state's Beverage Corporation. Liquor vendors are hoping for higher profits once the government enforces the price hike. An official said, "While the excise duty hike on beer may lead to increased revenue, frequent price hikes are adversely affecting the business."

Three-tier system for beer

Currently, beer is sold under a single tier in the state, but future regulations will categorise beer similar to domestic liquors. The new system will introduce three tiers based on alcohol content: beers with up to 5% alcohol, those between 5% and 6.5% alcohol, and those with 6.5% to 8% alcohol. According to sources from the excise department, excise duties on these three categories will be increased by Rs 10, Rs 16, and Rs 20 per litre, respectively.

THE SUNDAY READ

The perfect gambit

With spotlight on chess like never before, B'lureans all set to make right moves from the start

| Asha Chowdary
mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com
TWEETS @BangaloreMIRROR

The tribe of chess enthusiasts is ever-growing and communities are being built by spaces such as Chess Klub (inset)

India recently experienced a golden moment when we made history with a double gold win at the 2024 Chess Olympiad in Budapest. But for chess lovers across the nation, it was a pure platinum hour.

Never before has there been such jubilation, such excitement and such a rush to chess centres to master the game. Sports talent firms are eager to sign up young players, with sponsorship deals while scouts actively search for the next rising chess stars.

Bengaluru is not far behind and is also riding the wave of enthusiasm. Today, the fervour is at an all time high as the city gears up to nurture grandmasters who can take the world by storm.

We caught up with a number of chess enthusiasts in the city to find out how Bengaluru is responding to this historic win...

Renewed enthusiasm

Sahana Kulkarni, Chief Operating Officer, Chess Klub says, "This win is truly an inspiration and has sparked renewed enthusiasm within our community! We are witnessing an extraordinary rise in interest in the game, with an increase in chessboard sales and heightened enthusiasm from both seasoned players and newcomers."

According to Sahana, this win will open up even more career opportunities for chess enthusiasts and academies. "We've already noticed a significant spike in membership inquiries and a growing interest in learning chess, especially from young players who are eager to emulate our Olympiad heroes. We've introduced specialised training programs focused on tournament preparation. More young players are now competing in local and national level tournaments."

What will happen next?

Raunak Sodhani, a chess coach and expert player, who has been conducting tournaments and training students for several years, is excited about the advancements in Indian chess this season.

"I expect increased involvement from corporates and individuals in identifying and sponsoring young talent early in their careers," he says. "For example, in 2022, a certain quantitative trading firm signed a five-year sponsorship deal worth $1.5 million with Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi. Arjun performed so well that he won an individual gold on Board 3 in this Olympiad. I envision the kind of dominance by our players as West Indies and Australia had over world cricket."

A New Era of Chess

Priyanka J, a franchisee of Chess Klub in Electronic City is equally delighted over the gold victories. "I see tremendous potential for chess in India," she says. "I am also happy that people are recognising other sports beyond cricket in India, and realising that each game has huge potential because of the talent we have in our country. Every house has a chess player, every house has a hockey player, so it is about giving those talents and those kids that platform to learn and inculcate skills in the game in an organised way."

> **"I usually practise chess for 3-4 hours on weekends and attend classroom coaching twice a week. These classes have helped me improve my rating and get selected in the school U-14 team**
>
> –Ahaan Pathak, Class 7 student

Student-speak

Young players are also practising their chess games with passion and dedication. Ahaan Pathak, Standard 7 student of Delhi Public School, shares, "I usually practise chess for 3-4 hours on weekends and attend classroom coaching twice a week. These classes have helped me improve my rating and get selected in the school U-14 team. There is a lot of competition even among our players who are as young as 5-6 old. I am confident that our country will now continue to dominate the world of chess with a new lineup of champions."

How to become a champion

"Becoming a champion requires years of dedicated practice, mental discipline, and strategic thinking," Sahana emphasises. "While timelines vary, many grandmasters begin playing in childhood, honing their skills for 10-15 years or more."

Her Chess club was founded with the vision of making chess more accessible and exciting for all ages. "We want to create the world's best chess eco-system. Today, we have a vibrant community of over 3,300 members."

Hopes and suggestions

Raunak, who conducts 28-30 group classes in a week, expects the movement to grow. "I believe more companies will bring on Olympiad winning players as brand ambassadors for their products and services."

He also has some recommendations for the government. "State and central authorities should provide greater support to the All India Chess Federation and state associations to organise bigger tournaments. We need state-of-the-art venues across the country to host these competitions."

Sahana and other chess pioneers who have invested in the game by establishing clubs, coaching centres and franchises, are equally committed. "Our future plans include expanding our centres, hosting more tournaments, and collaborating with schools to introduce chess at an early age," says Sahana.

It is clear that chess enthusiasts across the city are excited to be a part of this growing movement to instil the love of chess in everyone with a dream and anyone who believes that the sky's the limit for a young chess player in India.

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BENGALURU SPEAKS

and gets heard on this page

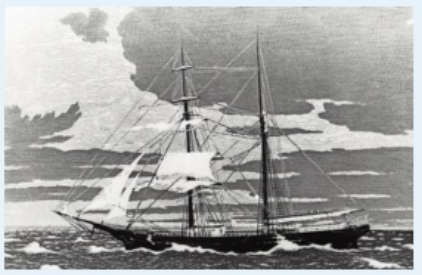
STORYBEHINDTHEPHOTO

NATURE'S VENUS
Close-up of a praying mantis set against a cactus flower

The picture was clicked by BM reader **A Aruna**

If you have a picture and a story to share, send us the picture with your name and number at **mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com**

DID YOU KNOW?



One of the greatest nautical mysteries in history is the whereabouts of the captain and crew of the Mary Celeste, the ghost ship. The 282-ton brigantine sailed to Genoa, Italy, from New York Harbor on November 7, 1872. On board were the ship's captain, Benjamin S. Briggs, his wife, Sarah and their 2-year-old daughter, Sophia, along with eight crew members. The Mary Celeste was found at full sail and drifting some 400 miles east of the Azores by the passing British ship Dei Gratia on December 5, less than a month later. The captain, his family, and the crew were nowhere to be seen. The ship was uninjured and had enough food and water for six months, with the exception of a few feet of water in the hold and a missing lifeboat.
Over the years, many theories have been put forth, ranging from mutiny and pirate attack to huge octopus or sea monster attack. The more scientifically inclined have suggested that the explosion was caused by vapours from the 1,700 barrels of crude alcohol that were stored in the ship's hold.

GET HEARD WITH MIRROR

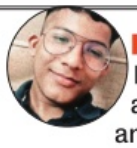
9591233247

Let's see how much you know about Namma Bengaluru, folks. Tell us something incredible and mind-boggling about this beautiful city and our editors and researchers will check it out. If it's credible, we'll give it a shout-out, with your name and picture.

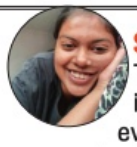
TAPTHECHATTER

where Bengalureans speak their mind

In your opinion, what role does Bengaluru play in shaping the future of technology and innovation in India?



Khushdeep Singh, BM Reader
I think the city is at the forefront of adopting smart city technologies and its advancements in urban infrastructure, transportation, sustainability etc, which makes it the hotspot for technological advancements and research.

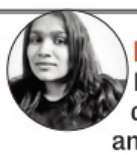


Soumya, BM Reader
Today Bengaluru has established itself as the IT hub of India. I think everyone expects Bengaluru to somewhat be ahead compared to other cities, and I think as the years go by Bengaluru is becoming more and more advanced.

Priyantika, BM Reader
Being the country's start-up and tech hub, Bengaluru is at the forefront of innovation and creativity. From ISRO to establishing vital tech parks for companies such as Wipro and Infosys, the city is home to tech.

Sahil Ghataul, BM Reader
Bengaluru hosts numerous tech events and is an innovative hub with science parks and many more. So it is safe to believe that it will continue to do so in the future.

Riya, BM Reader
I am not very well versed in this field, but I feel like if not anything, Bengaluru will be the first to come out with a new technology. I feel like we will be the starters for new innovations.



Esita, BM Reader
I have seen too many tech companies here in Bengaluru, and more than that I have come across people in their late twenties with new startups. So in the future Bengaluru will surely be a tech lead.

SPEAK TO US

How has the monsoon season affected the city's infrastructure and daily life?

If you want to be featured in this section, mail us your answer to this question, in 25 words, with 'Tap The Chatter' in the subject line. Mail us with your name, occupation & a picture at WhatsApp us on 9591233247 or mybangaloremirror@timesofindia.com

BMTC to induct 287 electric buses

Currently, there are 1,027 electric buses in operation across the city

Sridhar Vivan
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TWEETS @sridharvMirror

Electric buses reduce risk of heart & respiratory issues

The Bengaluru Metropolitan Transport Corporation (BMTC) is set to introduce 287 more electric buses to its fleet. Under the Bengaluru Smart City scheme, 90 non-air-conditioned 9-metre electric buses are already operating as metro feeder services, while 300 non-air-conditioned 12-metre electric buses have been deployed under the FAME-II scheme. Additionally, 637 non-air-conditioned 12-metre electric buses have been introduced, with another 287 scheduled to join by the end of November. Currently, there are 1,027 electric buses in operation across the city, and an additional 760 electric buses, including 320 air-conditioned and 148 non-air-conditioned 12-metre buses, will soon be added through funding from the Special Assistance to States for Capital Investment 2023-24 scheme. BMTC currently operates 5,725 schedules across 59,709 routes, covering 11.73 lakh kilometres daily, and serving over 40 lakh passengers.

A BMTC official said, "BMTC is rolling out electric buses under various schemes supported by the central and state governments through a Gross Cost Contract (GCC) model. This move is part of the corporation's broader strategy to phase out diesel buses and introduce more environmentally friendly alternatives."

BMTC officials claim that the introduction of electric buses offers several key benefits. "One of the primary advantages is a positive environmental impact, as the shift from diesel to electric significantly reduces carbon emissions and helps mitigate climate change," said an official. BMTC estimates that its fleet of 1,000 electric buses saves around 51,000 litres of diesel each day, preventing the release of 1.38 lakh kilograms of carbon dioxide, which makes a substantial contribution to environmental conservation. Additionally, electric buses produce zero emissions, eliminating pollutants such as sulfur oxide (SOx), nitrogen monoxide (NOx), hydrocarbons (HC), and particulate matter (PM), which helps combat global warming and improve air quality. "Electric buses operate much more quietly than traditional diesel vehicles. This noise reduction is especially important in urban areas, where excessive noise pollution can lead to health problems such as sleep disturbances and increased stress. More or less, BMTC's electric buses contribute to improved public health in overall," added an official.

HEALTH TIP: Calcium enables blood to clot, preventing you from bleeding out to death every time you cut yourself

Other than Vitamin C, lemons are also packed with essential minerals such as calcium and magnesium

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Sunday, October 6, 2024
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All you need to know about...

PFA in blood

Losing sleep
High levels of per- and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS) also known as "forever chemicals" in your blood can make it difficult for you to sleep properly, which can act as a precursor to several diseases, finds a study.

Forever chemicals are everywhere
Previous studies have shown that the "forever chemicals" have contaminated water, food, and people through products such as Teflon pans, waterproof clothing, stain-resistant carpets and fabrics, and food packaging. Studies have also shown their role in cancers of the breast, ovary, skin, and uterus in women, among other diseases.
The new research led by the University of South California (USC) linked higher levels of four specific types of PFAs in the blood with disruptions to a fundamental pillar of health -- sleep.

How they enter body
PFAS enter the body through contact with consumer items and are even ingested with food and water. They don't break down easily and can persist in the environment for decades.

Importance of sleep
Sleep is an essential component of good health. A person must sleep 7-8 hours of sleep daily. Prolonged poor sleep may raise chronic health issues, including diabetes and Alzheimer's disease.
In the study, published in the journal Environmental Advances, the team collected blood samples and information about sleep from 144 participants, ages 19 to 24. Out of seven types of PFAS examined, PFDA, PFHxS, PFOA, and PFOS affected sleep the most. The young adults with higher levels of these toxic chemicals in the blood had 80 fewer minutes of sleep at night. They also had trouble falling asleep, staying asleep, waking up, or feeling tired during waking hours.

—IANS

Feast on while you fast

Some recipes that are a must-have during Navarathri

SABUDANA KHICHDI

INGREDIENTS
- Sabudana- 1 1/2 cups
- Peanuts -1/4 cup
- Green chilies- 4-5 chopped finely
- Potato- 1 medium
- Ghee- 3 tablespoons
- Curry leaves- 1-2 sprigs
- Cumin seeds- 1 teaspoon
- Rock Salt to taste
- Lemon juice- 1 teaspoon
- coconut scraped- 2 tablespoons
- coriander leaves a few sprigs chopped

METHOD
- Wash sabudana and then soak in one-cup water for three to four hours. Sabudana grains should be separate and moist. Roast peanuts on a hot griddle, peel off the skin and then grind coarsely. Peel and wash the potato and cut into cubes. Heat ghee in a pan, add curry leaves, cumin seeds and chopped green chillies. When cumin seeds crackle add the potato cubes. Cook till the potatoes are done. Add sabudana, scraped coconut and ground peanuts, sauté for four to five minutes, stirring well. Sprinkle a little water, add salt and lime juice. Mix well. Sprinkle chopped coriander leaves. Serve hot

SABUDANA WADA

INGREDIENTS
- 1 cup sabudana
- 3 to 4 medium aloo boiled
- ½ cup peanuts
- 1 tsp jeera
- 1-2 green chilies finely chopped
- 2 tsp lime juice
- few chopped coriander leaves
- 1.5 tsp sugar or as required
- 3 tbsp kuttu ka atta
- rock salt as per taste
- oil for frying

METHOD
- Soak the sabudana in water for 5 hours at least or overnight. Drain of all the water completely from the soaked sabudana.
- In a bowl mash the potatoes and add sabudana; then mix together.
- On a skillet or in a shallow pan, roast the peanuts till they become crisp. Cool and then coarsely powder in a dry grinder.
- Add the peanuts, rock salt, sugar, green chilies, coriander leaves and lemon juice. Mix the entire mixture well.
- Now take some portion of the mixture in your hands and shape them into flat round vadas. Deep fry the sabudana vadas till golden brown. Serve sabudana vada with coconut chutney.

SABUDANA KHEER

INGREDIENTS
- ½ cup sabudana
- 4 cups milk
- 4 to 5 tbsp sugar
- 4-5 green cardamoms semi fine powder
- 2 tbsp chopped cashews
- ½ tbsp raisins
- 3-4 saffron strands/kesar (optional)

How to Make the Recipe:
- Rinse the Sabudana till the water runs clear of the starch.
- Take a thick bottomed pan or sauce pan in which you will be making the kheer.
- Add the rinsed Sabudana and water in the pan.
- Cover and let the Sabudana get soaked in the water for 15-20 minutes.
- Later keep this pan on the stove top and begin to cook the Sabudana.
- Meanwhile heat or warm the milk too. No need to boil the milk.
- After 4-5 minutes, add the milk to the pan and continue to cook.
- Add sugar and cardamom powder and simmer till the Sabudana have cooked well for about 20-25 minutes on a low to medium flame.
- Keep on stirring occasionally.
- Switch off the fire and add cashews and raisins.
- Garnish the Sabudana kheer with saffron strands.
- Serve Sabudana kheer hot o rwarm or cold.

SHIRIKAND

INGREDIENTS
- Hung Curd - 1 Cup
- ½ Cup Sugar
- 1 Tsp Cardamom Powder
- 1 Tsp Gulab Jal
- 1 Tsp Charoli
- 1 Tbsp Chopped Dry Fruits – Almonds, Pista

METHOD
- Place A Thin Muslin Cloth On A Strainer And Pour The Curd Over It And Loosely Cover It With The Edges Of The Cloth. Refrigerate This And Let The Curd Sit In The Strainer For A Minimum Of 4-5 Hrs
- Add Sugar And Mix Well
- Pour The Mixture In Sieve To Yield Smooth Shrikhand
- Elaichi, Gulab Jal, Charoli, Dry Fruits And Mix . Serve Chilled

Maharaj Bhanwar Singh, Maharaj, Khandani Rajdhani

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Black carbon emission higher in heavy traffic, industrial areas

CONTINUED FROM PAGE 1

industrial locations than in residential areas, indicating that a large portion of the emission is mainly from fossil fuel combustion.

The concentrations of black carbon during monsoon were very low (3.4 µg/m3) as compared to winter (9 µg/m3) due to the washout effect.

Black carbon is a sooty material that comes from the incomplete combustion of fossil fuels, biofuels, and biomass. It is emitted from diesel engines, coal-fired power plants, cook stoves, and forest fires.

The study underlines that a higher mass concentration of black carbon indicates serious implications for the regional climate that need to be investigated and mitigated.

Immediate action is required to mitigate the emission into the urban environment in the southern part of India.

Experts say the harmful gas absorbs sunlight and generates heat in the atmosphere. It can cause respiratory diseases and harm the cardiovascular system.

While waste burning also emits a small amount of black carbon, diesel combustion is the major source.

"Black carbon is a component of PM2.5. People in Bengaluru are exposed to high levels of black carbon. A majority of the emission comes from diesel combustion - both generator sets and heavy vehicles.

When we conducted emission inventory for Bengaluru, diesel generator sets were found to be contributing 11% of the total PM2.5 concentration, and diesel trucks and cars led to 63% of the total PM 2.5 emissions," said Dr. R Subramanian, sector head, of Air Quality, Centre for Study of Science, Technology, and Policy (CSTEP).

Getting rid of diesel vehicles is the only way out. Most of the black carbon emission is from BS II, III, and IV vehicles and as they get phased out in favour of BS XI vehicles, the emission should come down, opine experts.

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CHANGE OF NAME

I, SREEDHARA (Surname Mudabidare Doddamane) S/o SURYANARAYANA RAO M. D. residing at No.12, 2nd Cross, Ist Main, Siddeswara Layout, Sidedahalli, Nagasandra Post. Bangalore 560073 shall henceforth be known as SRIDHAR (surname Mudabidare Doddamane) for all purposes.

I Kiran Ravi Naidu Seshadri s/o Seshadri Naidu, r/a G6, thirumala lotus, Bangalore 560083 have changed my name to Kiran Naidu.

I, Santosh Narayanaswamy R/O #6, Anjaneya Temple Street, JC Nagar, Bangalore - 560006 have changed my name to Santhosh Narayanaswamy for all purposes

I, Hiteshkumar Parshottam bhai Zalavadia, R/at No.F-1, 2nd Floor, Rajalakshmi residency, 2nd Cross, Bob Colony, JP Nagar, 7th Phase, Bengaluru-560078 have changed my name to Hitesh P Zalavadiya, vide affidavit dt: 27.09.2024 before notary V. Rajashekhara, B.lore.

I Arvind Kasthuri s/o PT Kasthuri r/o Bangalore 560008 have changed my name from Arvind Kasturi to Arvind Kasthuri for all future purposes

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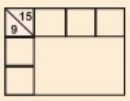
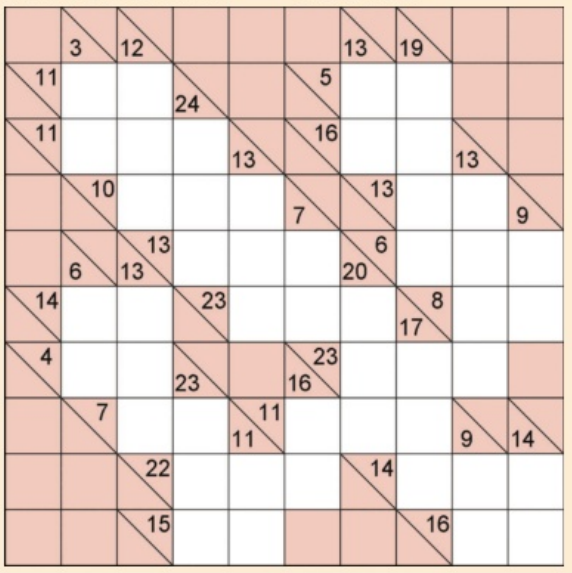
Kakuro

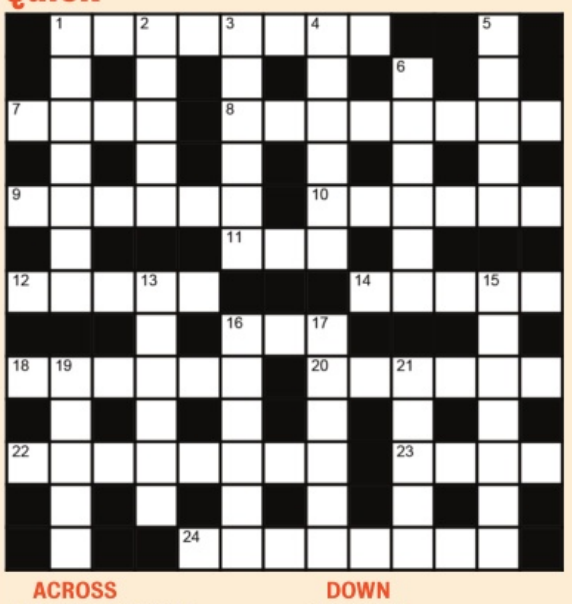
The numbers in the grey squares refer to the sums of the digits that you must fill into the empty spaces directly below or to the right of the grey square containing the number. For instance, in the given example, the 3 boxes horizontally next to 15 must contain 3 digits that add up to 15, whereas for 9, it is the 2 boxes placed vertically under it that must add up to 9. No zeros are used here, only the digits 1 through 9.



Note: A digit cannot appear more than once in any particular digit combination. For instance, in the example, we cannot have the combination of 4+7+4 for 15.



Quick



ACROSS

1 Return or recur to memory? (4,4)
7 Mountain range (4)
8 Fails to fulfil obligation or fails to appear (8)
9 Capital of the Philippines (6)
10 Hardened (6)
11 Adult male (3)
12 Dismal, gloomy (5)
14 Obnoxiously forward (5)
16 Period of time (3)
18 Bladed weapons (6)
20 Just copes (4,2)
22 Triumphs (8)
23 Reign (4)
24 Hardened or became bonelike (8)

DOWN

1 Pirate (7)
2 Many (prefix) (5)
3 Pandemonium (6)
4 Sarcophagus (6)
5 Dull finish (5)
6 Another word for "kabbadi" (2,2,2)
13 Reach a point (6)
15 Walked haltingly (7)
16 Notices or sees (6)
17 Tennis star Andre ___ (6)
19 Bangalore is divided into 225 ____ (5)
21 Ankle bones (5)

Quoteuncode

This puzzle is a substitution cipher in which one letter stands for another. If you think that Q equals C, it will equal C throughout the puzzle. Single letters, short words and words using an apostrophe give you clues to locating vowels. Solution is by trial and error.

Today's CLUE: Z EQUALS Y

ZBE RB ZBES WICY UBSF JX ZBE RB D HBW YLDY VDFIC ZBE LDGGZ.

Linemaro

Congratulations! You've been voted the most beautiful girl in the room and the grand prize is a date with me

Mindchow

Life is like riding a bicycle. To keep your balance, you must keep moving

Joke of the day

A golf club walks into a local bar and asks the barman for a pint of beer. The barman refuses to serve him. "Why not," asks the golf club. "You'll be driving later," replies the bartender.

Loop

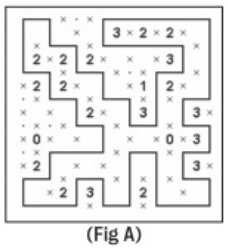
Rules

» Connect adjacent dots with vertical or horizontal lines, creating a single loop (Fig A). » Crossovers or branches are not allowed (As shown by dotted lines in Fig B). » Numbers in the puzzle indicate the number of lines that should surround it, while empty cells may be surrounded by any number of lines. » You can't draw lines around zeros. » Each puzzle has just one unique solution.

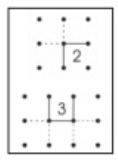
How to begin:

Example (Fig A) – Begin with the zero next to 3. Since no lines can be drawn around zero, mark crosses around it, as shown. Now there is a cross in one space around 3. So we know the three lines of 3 can only be drawn in the remaining three spaces. Next, these lines can only be extended in one direction each. Continue, using the same logic.

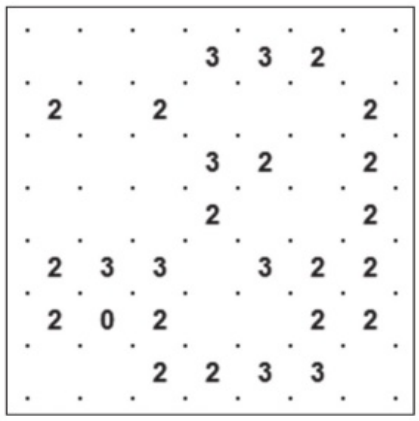
Hints: Keep eliminating possibilities by marking crosses in spaces between dots where a line isn't possible, i.e., if you have already completed required lines or where a line extension may create a branch or cause a dead-end (Fig B)



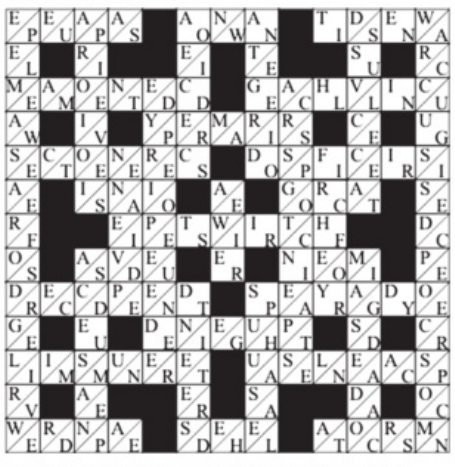
(Fig A)



(Fig B) Not Allowed



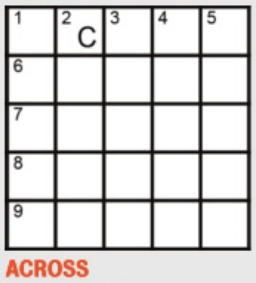
Strikeout



This crossword has no clues and the answer is there waiting for you. All you have to do is find it in each square. You have a choice of two letters, one of which you must strike out. If you choose correctly, you will be left with a grid that contains real words.

Fast five

How long do you think it will take you to unscramble the ten words shown below and fit them correctly into the grid in the order given one letter has already been entered to get you started? on your marks, get set...



ACROSS

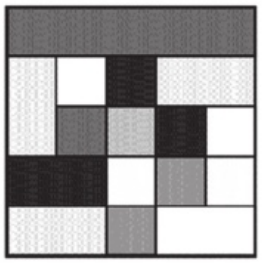
1 Paces; 6 We pro; 7 Samoa; 8 A toss; 9 Ore he

DOWN

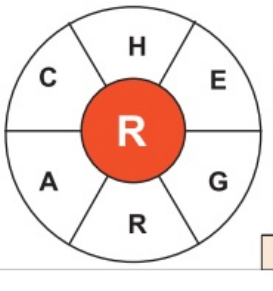
1 Sopor; 2 Cameo; 3 Haw as; 4 Poets; 5 A seer

Mensapuzzle

How many squares of any size are in the figure?



Bull's eye



How many words of four or more letters can you make from the letters shown? Every word must contain the central letter. There should be one seven-letter word. British English Dictionary is used as a reference.

15 Average; 17 Good; 19 Outstanding

SudokuChallenge

		6	8					
9			7	1			3	
						9	2	7
	8					1		
	5	4	9		2	3	6	
		3					4	
5	1	9						
	7			5	6			1
					8	4		

To solve a Sudoku puzzle, every digit from one to nine must appear in each of the nine vertical columns, in each of the nine horizontal rows and in each of the nine boxes.

Gofigure

Place the four numbers in the first, third, fifth, and seventh boxes and whatever operators you care to use in the second, fourth, and sixth boxes in the correct order to get the answer. Use the numbers only once.

Easy = 16: 1 4 6 7

Medium = 30: 3 3 6 9

Hard = 51: 2 7 8 7

HOCUS-FOCUS

BY HENRY BOLTINOFF

Find at least six differences in details between panels.

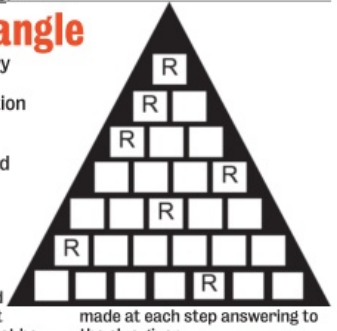
Differences: 1. Leg is moved. 2. Tree is added. 3. Pocket is lower. 4. Hair is different. 5. Man is thinner. 6. Nose is different.

Riddler

After some relaxing, the Seekers of Knowledge received a gift from an anonymous person. The gift was a magical scroll case that had 12 gemstones on it. The Seekers were a bit shocked at the elegance of the scroll case as they knew it was very expensive. There was a catch with it. They had no idea how to open it. As they looked over the scroll case with amazement, suddenly a magic mouth appeared before them and said, "The code to open this scroll case is hidden within the stones; you must press each stone in the proper order to open it." The magic faded out. The stones are in this order on the scroll case: Turquoise, Diamond, Opal, Aquamarine, Topaz, Emerald, Moonstone, Garnet, Sapphire, Amethyst, Ruby, Peridot.

Alpha triangle

1 Radius in geometry
2 Concerning
3 Clerical abbreviation
4 Unceasingly
5 Poetry
6 Change and amend
7 Opposite



Beginning at the top move towards the bottom seven-letter word by adding a letter at each step and rearranging. A correct and different word must be made at each step answering to the clue given.

DIFFICULT TO SOLVE? FIND THESE SOLUTIONS ON THE NEXT PAGE

COMICS

The BETTER HALF by GLASBERGEN
Featuring HARRIET & STANLEY PARKER
A CANDLELIGHT DINNER NOW AND AGAIN IS A NICE WAY TO SAVE A MARRIAGE.
A CANDLELIGHT DINNER NOW AND AGAIN IS A NICE WAY TO SAVE MONEY ON OUR ELECTRIC BILL.
"Look up Mother Nature's address and tell her the rent is due for her squirrels that are living in our attic."
"Adding a drop of fabric softener to your coffee won't prevent hardening of the arteries."
POTATO CHIPS
"Listen, sweetheart, they're playing our song...it's a laxative commercial now."
"I hate to quarrel with my husband, but arguing burns more calories than talking quietly."
BABY BLUES™
BY RICK KIRKMAN & JERRY SCOTT
OPEN WIDE!
AAUGH!
EWW!
ICK!
STOP!
MOM!
ALL DISGUSTING CREATURES MUST STAY OUTSIDE!
AND TELL HIM THAT GOES FOR THE BUG, TOO.
THESE TESTS ARE IRREFUTABLE. NO HUMAN COULD'VE SURVIVED INSIDE THE DEPTHS OF THAT ACCURSED MIRROR.
WE MAY JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT THE FACT THAT FLASH IS LOST TO US!
NO!
THE SKELETAL REMAINS WE FOUND WEREN'T HIS. HE'S STILL OUT THERE SOMEWHERE.
AND IF HE IS ALIVE, WE CAN'T AFFORD TO GIVE UP ON HIM.
NOT NOW.
NOT EVER!
FLASH GORDON
WITH HIS FOLLOWERS HAVING FLED AND THE PORTAL TO THE DARK VOID SLOWLY DIMINISHING, GARAKAHN ENGAGES FLASH IN A FIGHT TO THE FINISH!
I'VE LOST EVERYTHING BECAUSE OF YOU!
MY PEOPLE, KARA...
JIM KEEFE 10-23
EVERYTHING!
K-CHING!
LOOKS LIKE YOUR SWORD TOO. GIVE IT UP. IT'S OVER.
NEVER!
WITH THE CREATURE DEAD, THIS PORTAL SHALL BE MY ESCAPE!
I CAN REEMERGE FROM ANY ONE OF THE MYSTICAL MIRRORS ALREADY DISPATCHED THROUGHOUT MONGO!
YOU MAY HAVE WON THE BATTLE, GORDON, BUT THE WAR IS FAR FROM OVER!
NEXT: INTO ETERNITY!

WHAT YOUR STARS SAY TODAY

Aries Mar 21 – Apr 20
Today, you are blessed with a positive moon, which may help you make the right investment decisions. Your past investments may also bring you profits. You will likely start working on a new project that will benefit you in the long term. Expand your network to improve your social status.

Taurus Apr 21 – May 20
Today, you may feel a bit down, and some negativity might be noticeable around you. Dull feelings may affect you, so it is advised to control your tone of speaking, as harsh words could create problems. You are also likely to reject advice from well-wishers. However, by late evening, things may come under control.

Gemini May 21 – Jun 21
Today, you are blessed by the moon, and you may be able to control unnecessary spending. You are likely to meet an adviser or receive guidance that may help you invest your savings in better options, boosting your financial health. You may find yourself more polite with others, which could increase the respect you receive from those around you.

Cancer Jun 22 – July 23
Today is a good day for your work. You may perform well and might be entrusted with new responsibilities, possibly leading to a promotion. You may be in a favourable position in some litigation. Your child's health may improve, and you may meet with an investment consultant to discuss your child's future. You will have control over hidden enemies.

Leo Jul 24 – Aug 23
You are blessed by the moon, and with the help of elders' blessings, you may come out of last week's messy situation. Destiny may bring some progress into your life. Your spiritual strength may guide you in making the right decisions, and your financial condition may improve.

Virgo Aug 24 – Sep 23
Today, you may be overwhelmed by negative thoughts. Your impatience and arrogance may hold you back from making difficult decisions. The blessings of your elders will help you grow in your career. It is best to avoid making investments in non-productive assets. Lovebirds should refrain from discussing past bad moments.

Libra Sep 24 – Oct 22
You are blessed by the moon today, and you may expect to hear good news related to your profession. Domestic life will be joyful. However, it is advised to avoid arguments over trivial topics in family matters. You can make important decisions regarding investments in assets. Students are likely to be focused on their studies.

Scorpio Oct 23 – Nov 22
Today, you may be busy at work. Your focus on your goals is clear, helping you complete tasks before the deadline and with precision. You may also enjoy happy moments with your family. Singles are likely to find a soulmate. You may plan to renovate your house or office, which will enhance your status.

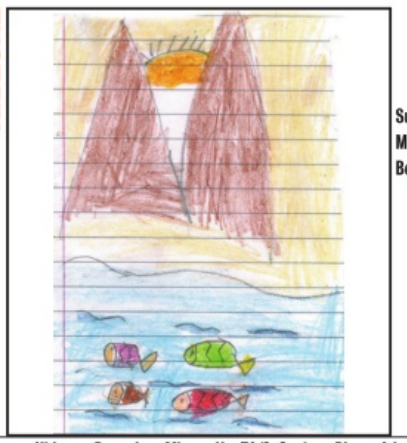
Sagittarius Nov 23 – Dec 22
Today, you are blessed by the moon. Your self-respect will shield you from negative people around you. You may be more emotional when dealing with family issues. At work, you will perform well and are likely to complete tasks on time, boosting your confidence. Your inner strength will help you make difficult decisions regarding business growth.

Capricorn Dec 23 – Jan 20
Today, you are under the influence of a negative moon, and you may feel negativity around you. Due to these dull feelings, you may become arrogant. It is advised to control your tone, as harsh words could cause issues with those around you. Postpone any investments related to fixed assets for now.

Aquarius Jan 21 – Feb 19
Today, the positive moon is spreading blessings. You may feel confident and enjoy your work, which will speed up your current projects. You may also feel healthy, and your desires may come true. People around you may seek your help to solve their problems, increasing your prestige in society.

Pisces Feb 20 – Mar 20
Today, your moon is negative. You may feel dull and face some health issues, which may affect your daily routine. Some people you know may betray you, so it is advised to stay vigilant. You may be confused about making the right decisions. It's best to avoid making any financial decisions related to your business. Keep patient and avoid rushing into anything.

KIDZONE



Suhana Mankani, Bengaluru

Avyay Vikram, Bengaluru

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SOLUTIONS

SOLVE IN 1M
$9-(\frac{1}{3})^{-1}-4\times(\frac{1}{3})^{-1}$
$= 9\times3-(\frac{1}{3}) = 27-1 = 26$

RIDDLER They pressed the stones in this order: Garnet, Amethyst, Aquamarine, Diamond, Emerald, Moonstone, Ruby, Peridot, Sapphire, Opal, Topaz, Turquoise. They are all birthstones, and in the order of the months: January, February, March and so on.

QUOTE UNCODE
You do your best work if you do a job that makes you happy.

FAST FIVE

S	C	A	P	E
P	O	W	E	R
O	M	A	S	A
O	A	S	T	S
R	E	H	O	E

STRIKE OUT

P	U	P	A	A	W	N	I	D	E	A
L	R	I	E	E	U	C				
E	M	O	T	E	D	G	A	L	L	I	C
A	V	Y	E	A	R	S	C	U		
S	C	E	N	E	S	O	S	I	E	R	S
E	S	A	O	A	O	C	T	E		
F	I	P	S	W	I	C	H	D		
O	A	V	E	E	I	O	M	P		
R	E	C	E	N	T	P	A	R	A	D	E
G	U	E	I	G	H	T	D	R		
I	M	M	U	R	E	A	E	N	E	A	S
A	E	R	S	D						
V	E	R	N	E	S	H	E	T	O	R	N	D	O

QUICK

S			O	S	S	I	F	I	E	D
D		E	E	S	S	E				
P	R	E	V	A	I	L	S	R	U	L	E
A		I		P		A		B		
S	W	O	R	D	S	G	E	T	S	B	Y
		R		E	R	A		O		
D	R	E	A	R		P	U	S	H	Y	
		I		M	A	N		T		
M	A	N	I	L	A		I	N	U	R	E	D
S		T		L		F		T		
U	R	A	L		D	E	F	A	U	L	T	S
O		U		E		O		H		A
C	O	M	E	B	A	C	K		M	

MENSA PUZZLE
21

BULL'S EYE
acre, arch, archer, care, char, charge, CHARGER, crag, gear, grace, hare, hear, race, racer, rage, rare, reach, rear, rhea

SUDOKU

3	6	2	1	9	8	4	7	5
5	1	9	2	4	7	6	8	3
4	7	8	3	5	6	2	9	1
6	9	3	5	8	1	7	4	2
1	5	4	9	7	2	3	6	8
2	8	7	4	6	3	1	5	9
8	4	1	6	3	5	9	2	7
9	2	5	7	1	4	8	3	6
7	3	6	8	2	9	5	1	4

ALPHA TRIANGLE
R, Re, Rev, Ever, Verse, Revise, Inverse.

LOOP
Easy
$4 + 7 - 1 + 6 = 16$
Medium
$9 \times 3 + 6 - 3 = 30$
Hard
$7 \times 8 - 7 + 2 = 51$

GO FIGURE

KAKURO

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WIN

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WIN

WIN

WIN

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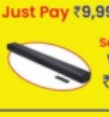
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